

General Information

Course name	Introduction to British Studies	ECTS Credits	5
		Semester	winter

Aims

This course introduces basic topics and concepts of British society, culture and institutions, many of which will be later studied in greater detail in separate courses. The topics include geography, politics, social and cultural issues. Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, student will be able to:

- understand and explain basic concepts of British Studies
- compare these with Slovak context
- apply this theoretical knowledge to understanding and analysis of simple media texts

Contents

Week1 Course Introduction
 Week2 Seminar: Geography, Country and People Reading - Chapters 1 and 3
 Week3 Seminar: Identities Reading - Chapter 4
 Week4 Seminar: Attitudes Reading - Chapter 5
 Week5 Seminar: Political Life, Monarchy Reading - Chapters 6, 7
 Week6 Seminar: Government, Parliament, Elections Reading – Chapters 8, 9, 10
 Week7 Tutorials
 Week8 Seminar: Law, International Relations Reading - Chapters 11, 12
 Week9 Seminar: Education Reading – Chapter 14; articles (ffweb)
 Week 10 Seminar: Religion Reading – Chapter 13; articles (ffweb)
 Week 11 Seminar: Media Reading – Chapter 16; articles (ffweb)
 Week 12 Seminar: Welfare Reading - Chapter 18
 Week 13 Tutorials
 Week 14 Tutorials

LECTURES:

Week 1 - no lecture
 Week 2 - Geography
 Week 3 - Regions
 Week 4 - Family & Gender
 Week 5 - Monarchy, Class, Welfare
 Week 6 - Politics
 Week 7 - Tutorials - no lecture
 Week 8 - Law, Foreign Relations
 Week 9 - Education
 Week 10 - Religion, Multicultural Society
 Week 11 - Media

You should also read the rest of the chapters from your coursebook to be prepared for the final exam. Should you come across anything you wish to discuss, 3 weeks of tutorials during the semester are reserved for this very purpose. Every student MUST have their own copy of O'Driscoll's book. All the other materials and assignments for home study will be available online at:

<http://ffweb.ff.upjs.sk/vyuka//Katedra%20Anglistiky%20a%20Amerikanistiky/Sabovikova/>

Introduction%20to%20BS/

Lecture handouts are available online at:

<http://ffweb.ff.upjs.sk/vyuka/Katedra%20Anglistiky%20a%20Amerikanistiky/Tomascikova/Introduction%20to%20BS%20Lectures/>

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to talk to your instructors before or after classes or, preferably, during office hours. Do not send email unless absolutely necessary and remember that in addition to teaching and preparing for classes, we have many other duties which make it impossible for us to check our emails constantly and to reply within 24 hours. Before asking a question related to the organization of the course, assessment etc., make sure it has not already been answered on the department website, in the course syllabus or in class.

Evaluation

- Regular Class Attendance: Students are allowed to miss no more than 2 seminars for whatever reason. Please reserve these for when you are sick or have other serious reasons to be absent since you only have these 2 options and no more! Once you have missed more than 2 seminars, you will not be allowed to continue the course and take the exam. Should anyone come unprepared, he or she will be asked to leave and considered absent from the seminar. The same applies to failure to participate in class activities and discussion.

- Quizzes: Students are expected to complete their readings prior to each class and bring a copy of readings with them to class. To make sure that each student prepares regularly and, thus, to ensure the possibility of classroom discussion, most of the classes will start with a short 10point quiz on the required readings for the given week. If a student fails to attend a class, they will score 0 points for the quiz. However, the results of the worst two quizzes will be automatically dropped when calculating the final score. The SUM of the scores from these quizzes must be AT LEAST 65% in order for a student to be allowed to take the final exam.

Final Assessment: Written exam taken during the examination period, covering materials assigned for home reading, discussed in seminars and lectures. Every student is entitled to 2 retakes if necessary, which means 3 chances for passing the exam. There are no more retakes so please keep this in mind and do not ask for any, official or unofficial. Grading policy: A 100-93% B 92-86% C 85-78% D 77-72% E 71-65% F 64 and less

Bibliography

O'Driscoll, J.: Britain for Learners of English. Oxford: OUP, 2009.

Recommended Reading:

Oakland, J.: British Civilisation. Routledge, London, 2002.

Oakland, J.: Contemporary Britain. Routledge, London, 2001.

Sevaldsen, J.: Contemporary British Society. Akademis, Copenhagen, 2005.

Storry, M. (ed.): British Cultural Identities, Routledge, London, 1997.